

# Fellowship

PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

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## A QUEST FOR UNITY ABOVE EAST AND WEST

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in St. Andrews, Scotland, last month urged its members to help "create the conditions" that would permit Communist China's admission to the United Nations. This positive move from churchmen, at a time when leaders of nations are spending their time "fixing the blame on each other for past failures," is a sign of hope in the long road toward bringing the peoples of the world together and making worldwide disarmament a reality.

An even more hopeful sign occurred this summer at Bièvres, France, when the third in a series of pacifist-inspired theological conferences included for the first time churchmen from the Communist countries, including the Soviet Union. The Russian Orthodox Church is one of the few major communions which has not yet affiliated with the World Council of Churches. It was represented at Bièvres by Prof. Pariiski of the Orthodox Theological Seminary in Leningrad.

The three Puidoux conferences have been attempts to bring together representatives of the pacifist "sects" and of the "state churches" for mutual understanding particularly in the area of world peace. First of the series, held in Puidoux, Switzerland, brought together 27 theologians, some of them from the Historic Peace Churches and other Western pacifist groups and some of them Continental European theologians of Reformed or Lutheran persuasion. Puidoux II was held at Iserlohn, Germany, in the summer of 1957. All three have been jointly sponsored by the Historic Peace Churches, the IFOR, and a half dozen German official bodies (*landeskirche*).

This year's meeting brought 70 people from twelve countries including the USSR, Finland, France, Great Britain, Germany (East and West), Holland, Canada, Switzerland, India, and the U.S. American delegates included: FOR member Douglas V. Steere, A. J.

### Help Needed!

*The FOR wants to bring to the attention of 500 leading American "opinion makers" the brilliant new pamphlet by England's Commander Sir Stephen King-Hall, "Common Sense about Defense," (35¢) which it is importing in quantity in an American edition.*

*FOR members can help by sending to the national office (Box 271, Nyack, N.Y.) names and addresses of leading personalities in their communities, such as:*

*Top TV-radio discussion program moderators (not news broadcasters).*

*Newspaper editorialists and columnists likely to be interested and open-minded.*

*Authors, professors, others in intellectual community, entertainment world, or church who are influential and have exhibited concern and originality about peace issues.*

*Please be discriminating, since funds are limited. Send names c/o Alfred Hassler.*

Muste, Dean Harold Bender of the Mennonite Seminary at Goshen, Ind. and others.

One of the important delegates to the conference was Dr. Ernest Wolf, distinguished professor of Church History at Göttingen, who pointed out that

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ALFRED HASSLER, Editor

WILLIAM ROBERT MILLER, Managing Editor

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## A Quest for Unity (contd)

while not becoming a Christian pacifist in the usual sense of the term, he had become committed to the "nuclear pacifist" position, as have a substantial number of other German theologians.

Much remains to be done, conference members agreed. Such issues as the relations of church and state, for example, need further exploration. But according to a report from A.J. Muste, a "noteworthy contribution to understanding and peace" had been made in the context of "a strong feeling of fellowship."

It was from small beginnings like this that the World Council itself took shape not so long ago. The very idea of Christian unity on a world scale implies the quest for peace symbolized by the Bièvres meeting. By implication, each in its own way is building bridges across frontiers of nation and ideology which statesmen may someday cross.

## Sit-In Successes Grow Apace

Lunch counters were integrated at four Lexington, Ky., variety stores on Aug. 22, thus ending a seventeen-month anti-segregation campaign sponsored by the local Congress of Racial Equality. During the week of Aug. 15 alone, forty-four white and Negro ministers sat-in at local stores.

On Aug. 11, ten Negro students were convicted of "trespassing" at the S.H. Kress Co. lunch counter in Greenville, S. C. The Rev. J. S. Hall, local Congress of Racial Equality

Chairman, said that "sit-ins will continue" there until Greenville joins with other southern communities in achieving lunch counter integration.

Three variety stores integrated their lunch counters in Miami, Fla. last month following sit-in demonstrations by teams set up by two members of the local Congress of Racial Equality. Miami is the first city in the state to integrate since sit-ins began there on Feb. 1.

Eating places were also desegregated in Greensboro, N. C. during July, where the lunch counter sit-ins began.

During the first six months of 1960, profits of the Woolworth Company dropped 20% over the same period last year, according to a report made by James R. Robinson, CORE executive secretary, in New York last month. "This decline in profits," he said, "may have something to do with the opening of lunch counters in 87 cities of 11 southern states."

## FOR Members Arrested; Vigil Protests Weapons Research

FOR members Roy C. Kepler and Samuel B. Tyson were arrested last month for civil disobedience at the University of California Radiation Laboratory in Livermore, Calif. Participating in a five-day vigil protesting nuclear weapons research, the men attempted to bypass security guards in order to speak with lab employees and urge them to stop designing atomic bombs. However, they were immediately taken into custody. Upwards of 500 troops had been "alerted" in expectation of a "Communist-inspired riot."

A total of 30 people participated in the vigil itself, which lasted Aug. 5-9. Members engaged in picketing, leaflet distribution and a "peace march" from Livermore to the laboratory.

News coverage was excellent in local newspapers.

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# NEWS from the peace front

Negro college students were welcomed at five white churches in Atlanta, Ga., on Aug. 15, their second visit in a campaign to bring about racial church integration. Treatment was not so hospitable at five other churches where students were refused seats or ushered to special pews. No major incidents were reported. However, opposition to the "kneel-in" campaign as a deliberate attempt to embarrass the churches was expressed by the official board of the Wesley Monumental Methodist church in Savannah, Ga., last month.

The demonstrations are being sponsored by the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, a bi-racial student organization.

An editorial on the "kneel-ins" appeared in the Aug. 24 issue of *The Christian Century*.

Forty people took part in a vigil commemorating the 15th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Aug. 6 at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Participants included Antioch college students, ten children, and members of the local Quaker meeting. Among those who stopped to talk with vigilers was a Japanese student from Pennsylvania State College, who pointed out that he found "very few Americans who fully understood the Japanese feeling about deaths from the A-bomb," and thanked the group for what it was trying to do.

The vigil was sponsored by the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting.

A group of anti-pacifist demonstrators harassed some 150 participants in the Polaris Action peace walk from Boston to New London during the first day of their journey last month. Driving a car with a 20-ft. anti-pacifist sign attached to its top, the four-man team went in advance of marchers, distributing leaflets and hate propaganda. However, marchers were friendly to the demonstrators, and they did not return after the first day.

A total of 20 people formed the "hard core" of the march, walking the

entire distance, while others left to return to their jobs. The former joined with Polaris Action team members in protesting the manufacture of missile-firing submarines in the New London area.

The walk was sponsored by the Committee for Nonviolent Action and was organized in Boston by former FOR Regional Secretary Robert Gussner and Peter Salmon, both of whom are serving in the FOR Peace Volunteers Program.

A total of 20 men and women were arrested on July 30 for civil disobedience at the Finningley H-bomber base in Doncaster, England. Anti-nuclear demonstrators squatted outside base gates where they obstructed the departure of a British Railways truck, while a crowd of over 200 direct action supporters cheered, sang, and clapped approval. Participants were then picked up bodily by police and driven off to nearby police headquarters.

The magistrate, in passing sentence, said: "To a great extent you have our sympathy. It is your methods we dislike."

Dr. Thorsten Sellin, one of the world's recognized authorities on criminology and penology, was recently chosen president of the newly established Pennsylvania Council to Abolish the Penalty of Death. The group itself was successful last year in urging the UN General Assembly to authorize a study of capital punishment.

FOR members on the Council include FOR National Council member Wayne Dockhorn, former FOR Middle Atlantic Secretary Charles C. Walker, Mrs. John Arnett, Lucy Garner, and others.

The Department of Justice has dropped its case against Mrs. Mary Knowles of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., who in 1955 refused to tell the Senate Internal Security subcommittee where she had ever

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been a member of the Communist party. Mrs. Knowles, who was employed in the local Friends Meeting library, challenged the authority of the Senate subcommittee to inquire into her "thoughts and beliefs." During the height of the controversy, the meeting was put under strong pressure to dismiss her. Instead, it raised her salary as a symbol of its faith in her integrity.

Former FOR Southern Regional Secretary, James M. Lawson Jr. received the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the Boston University School of Theology last month. Lawson took up his studies at BUST in June, following his dismissal from Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tenn., for his role in lunch counter sit-in demonstrations.

## LIT NOTES

*Worth Reading:* In "The Case for Public Demonstration and Civil Disobedience" in the August, 1960, *Minutes* (magazine of Nationwide Insurance), Lincoln Adair describes recent anti-nuclear protest marches and picket lines protesting racial segregation and discusses their role in determining future social patterns.

"The Politics of Survival," a new 8-page pamphlet available from the American Friends Service Committee discusses the implications of present

U.S. foreign policy and considers the bold changes in national commitment necessary "where not to change is to perish." Write: Peace Education Program, AFSC, 20 South 12th St. Philadelphia 7, Pa.

*On Hand:* "The Fate of A Child," a 17-minute 16 mm. sound film produced by the United Nations emphasizes the urgent need for world economic and social development, by focusing on the death of a child in a small Mexican community. Useful for discussion of U.S. foreign policy in relation to the wave of revolutionary change now sweeping two-thirds of the world. Single showing: \$5. Full week: \$15. Write: Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y.

### Finance Secretary Seeks Aid

FOR Finance Secretary Raymond Paavo Arvio suggests to members and friends that they share with him any ideas they may have, however improbable they may seem, about sources of support, large and small, for the FOR's work on behalf of the message of love and nonviolence. Do you know foundation workers, executives, board members? Are there family funds and trusts we should know about? Are there key individuals we should know and visit? Write Raymond Paavo Arvio, FOR, Box 271, Nyack, New York.

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